

SPINE-TINGLING TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

QUALITY  
COMIC  
EDUCATION

ANC

# WEB OF EVIL

JULY No. 16

10c

What happens when a killer ghost is brought back from beyond...

See-

## THE MEDIUM OF MURDER



DEATH'S  
VENGEANCE

The  
**FIEND**

HAMLET  
OF HORROR

# WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



# \$100,000 RING SALE

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IMPORTED SIMILE STONES!



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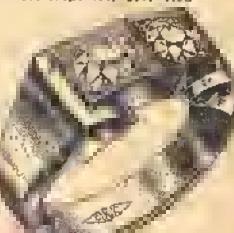
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# THE MEDIUM OF MURDER

Z-ZAKOR --- SEND  
HIM BACK... I BELIEVE  
YOU NOW --- GASP! GASP!  
--- CAN'T BREATHE...

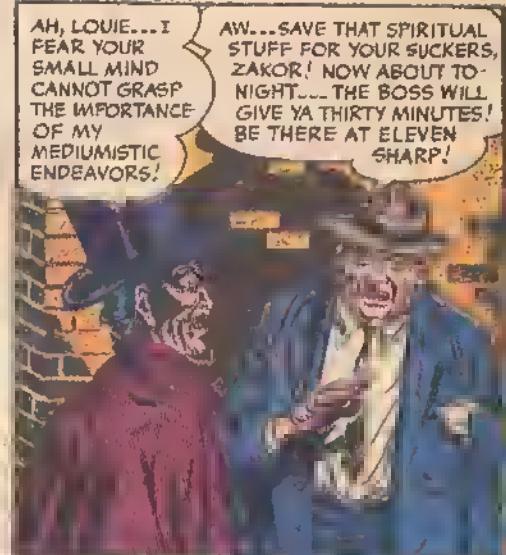
YOU WERE THE  
ONE WHO DOUBTED  
MY POWERS! NOW DIE  
FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

I-IT'S  
UNBELIEVABLE...  
GHOSTS THAT  
KILL!

SOMEHOW THE TWISTED MADMAN HAD REACHED OUT INTO THE BEYOND  
TO CAST HIS SPELL AND SUMMON THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO LURKED  
THERE! AND UTILIZING THEIR FRIGHTENING POWERS ZAKOR STRUCK  
UPON A UNIQUE PLAN... A FOOLPROOF SCHEME FOR CRIME! FOR  
HOW CAN A GHOST BE TRIED FOR MURDER?

WEB OF EVIL

IN A SWIRLING FOG ON THE WATERFRONT A SHORT, STOCKY MAN PACES BACK AND FORTH IMPATIENTLY. THE ECHOING CLATTER OF UPTOWN TRAFFIC IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS!



VERY WELL! I HAVE STRUCK UPON AN INGENIOUS PLAN...ONE WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOUR ... BUSINESS! I CAN GUARANTEE THE PERFECT MURDER!

WHAT? START TALKING SENSE, ZAKOR!

THE UNDERWORLD FORMALITY OF HIRING OUT GUNMEN TO ANNIHILATE YOUR ENEMIES IS OBSOLETE, KELLER! WHY NOT EMPLOY GHOSTS TO DO THE JOB?

HUH? THE GUY'S BLOWN HIS TOP!

THIS IS NO JEST, KELLER! I AM IN COMMAND OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD! I AND I ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL IT! IF IT'S PROOF YOU WANT I CAN FURNISH IT...

OKAY, SWAMI! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAUGH!



YOU SAY YOU CAN PROVE THIS...THIS RIDICULOUS STATEMENT! ALL RIGHT...GO AHEAD!

I'LL NEED A VICTIM FOR MY GHOST...WHAT ABOUT YOU, LOUIE? YOU HAVE VOICED YOUR DISBELIEF IN MY STATEMENT!

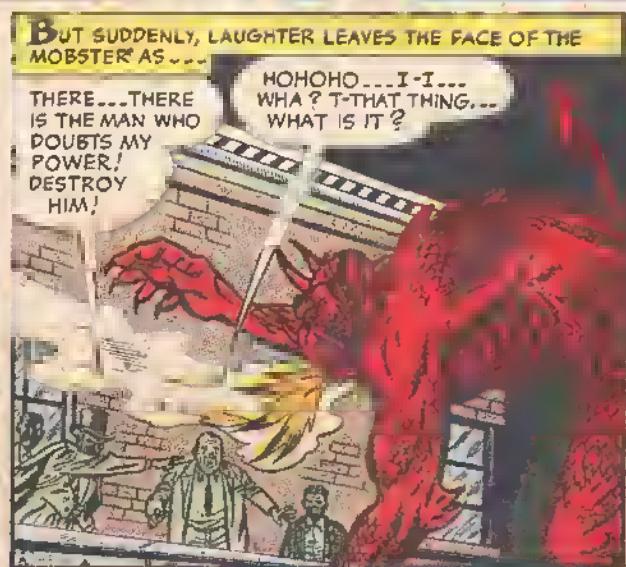
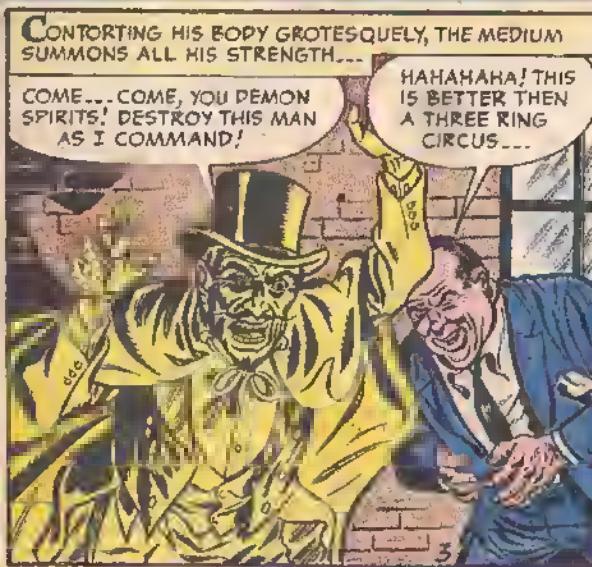
SURE...I'D BE GLAD TO MAKE A SAP OUTA YA!

**M**OVING TO THE TERRACE, ZAKOR FACES THE HEAVENS ABOVE, THEN WITH OUT-STRETCHED HANDS, CHANTS INCESSANTLY AS THE SKEPTICAL GANGSTERS LOOK ON!

SPIRITS...SPIRITS...I, ZAKOR, COMMAND YOU! I WISH TO BE RID OF THIS MORTAL LOUIE, COME AT ONCE AND TAKE HIM FROM THIS EARTH...



HUMPH! THIS CHARACTER SHOULD GET A ONE WAY TICKET TO THE INSANE ASYLUM!



CONTORTING HIS BODY GROTESQUELY, THE MEDIUM SUMMONS ALL HIS STRENGTH...

COME...COME, YOU DEMON SPIRITS! DESTROY THIS MAN AS I COMMAND!

HAHAHA! THIS IS BETTER THAN A THREE RING CIRCUS...

BUT SUDDENLY, LAUGHTER LEAVES THE FACE OF THE MOBSTER AS...

THERE...THERE IS THE MAN WHO DOUBTS MY POWER! DESTROY HIM!

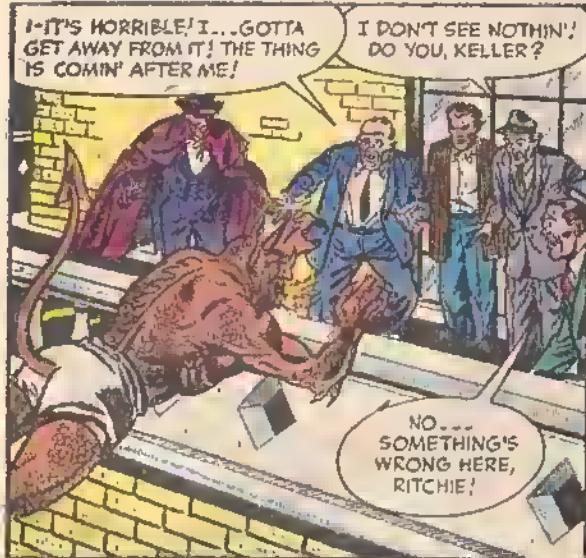
HOHOHO...I-I... WHA? T-THE THING... WHAT IS IT?

I-IT'S HORRIBLE! I... GOTTA GET AWAY FROM IT! THE THING IS COMIN' AFTER ME!

I DON'T SEE NOTHIN' DO YOU, KELLER?

Y-YIPE! IT'S... GOT ME BY THE THROAT! CALL IT OFF, ZAKOR... PLEASE!

I AM SORRY, MY FAT FRIEND! BUT I HAVE NO MERCY FOR THOSE WHO DISBELIEVE! DESTROY THIS MORTAL, GHOST!



WHAT A GIMMICK!  
I COULD BUMP OFF ED BROGAN AND ACE MAGELLAN WITH THESE GHOSTS

OF COURSE! THEY... I'D BE KINGPIN IN THIS TOWN!

EXACTLY! MY FEE FOR SUCH A JOB WILL NATURALLY BE HIGH BUT I'M SURE IT IS WELL WORTH IT! THINK OF THE POWER YOU COULD GAIN WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST RISK TO YOURSELF!

YOU'RE HIRED, ZAKOR! LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

THUS, KELLER PLOTS THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS MOST HATED ENEMY LATE INTO THE NIGHT...

I WANT BROGAN WIPED OUT FAST... HE'S MY MAIN THREAT! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET ONE OF YOUR... GHOSTS ON THE JOB RIGHT AWAY!

YOU MAY GO AHEAD AND ORDER FLOWERS FOR BROGAN'S FUNERAL! HE WILL BE A DEAD MAN IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS!



WEB OF EVIL

THE FOLLOWING EVENING AS "BOSS" ED BROGAN DESCENDS IN THE SELF-SERVICE ELEVATOR FROM HIS APARTMENT...

I GOTTA RETIRE FROM THE RACKETS ONE OF THESE DAYS! THE LAW'S MAKING IT TOUGH TO EARN A DISHONEST BUCK...

SUDDENLY...

WHA---  
THE LIGHTS  
HAVE GONE  
OUT! G-GREAT  
SCOTT! WHAT'S  
THAT...

BEFORE THE PANIC STRICKEN GANGSTER CAN REGAIN HIS SENSES...

Y-YIPE! W-WHO  
ARE YOU? WHAT  
IS THIS---A  
JOKE?

AAAAAEEE  
EEEEEE  
EEEEEE!

Y-YOU'RE NOT HUMAN,  
GET AWAY FROM ME!  
GET AWAY!

YAAAAARGH!

THE NEXT MORNING, GANGSTER KELLER AND HIS MEN GLOAT AS THEY READ THE REPORT IN THE NEWSPAPER...

HAHAHA...THE PAPER SAYS "UNKNOWN ASSASSIN"! BUT WE KNOW WHO DID IT HUH, ZAKOR? ONE OF YOUR GHOST BUDDIES!

I MUST CONGRATULATE IT ON A MOST EFFICIENT JOB!

SAY, ZAKOR...HOW'S CHANCES OF WATCHING YOUR GHOST IN ACTION WHEN YOU BUMP OFF ACE MAGELLAN?

ELM CITY JOURNAL  
BOSS BROGAN DEAD!  
VICTIM OF UNKNOWN GHOST

VERY WELL!  
THAT IS QUITE  
EASY TO  
ARRANGE!

SWELL!

BOY---I CAN HARDLY  
WAIT TO SEE ACE  
GET IT!

THE NEXT EVENING, AS THE WEST SIDE GANG LEADER, ACE MAGELLAN, HEADS FOR HIS COUNTRY HIDEOUT!

'HERE HE COMES! THAT'S MAGELLAN'S CAR!'

SILENCE! YOU MUST NOT MAKE A SOUND WHILE I SUMMON THE SPIRITS OF DEATH! ...ARISE...ARISE, SPECTRES OF EVIL!

SUDDENLY...

OH, MIGHTY GHOSTS OF VENGEANCE... REVEAL YOURSELF SO THAT MY FRIENDS CAN SEE YOU DO MY BIDDING! SLAY ACE MAGELLAN!

S-SUFFERING CATS!

SHORTLY, ACE MAGELLAN, HARDENED KILLER OF THE WEST SIDE, CRINGES BEFORE THE TERRIFYING SPECTRE THAT MOVES TOWARD HIM!

WHAAAAT? THE THING'S NOT HUMAN!

L-LOOK! THERE'S THE...KILLER GHOST!

AS THE GANG LEADER FLEES THE FEARFUL THING PURSUDES HIM!

HEEEEEEAA,  
EEEEE!!!!  
OOOOOO!

THEN, DEATH BLOTS OUT ANOTHER MURDEROUS CAREER...

YAAAAAGH!

HEE HEEEEE! THE END, ACE MAGELLAN, THE END OF YOUR BLOOD-STAINED CAREER! COME... JOIN ME IN THE GLOOM OF DEATH!

AND AFTERWARD...

I-I NEVER SEEN NOTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

NO INDEED! NOW, GENTLEMEN, YOUR RIVALS ARE DEAD! I, THE GREAT ZAKOR, HAVE ELIMINATED THEM FOR YOU! WE WILL RETURN TO MY CHAMBER TO DISCUSS...ER, BUSINESS.

SHORTLY, THE WIDE-EYED THUGS FOLLOW ZAKOR TO A SINISTER DWELLING WHERE...

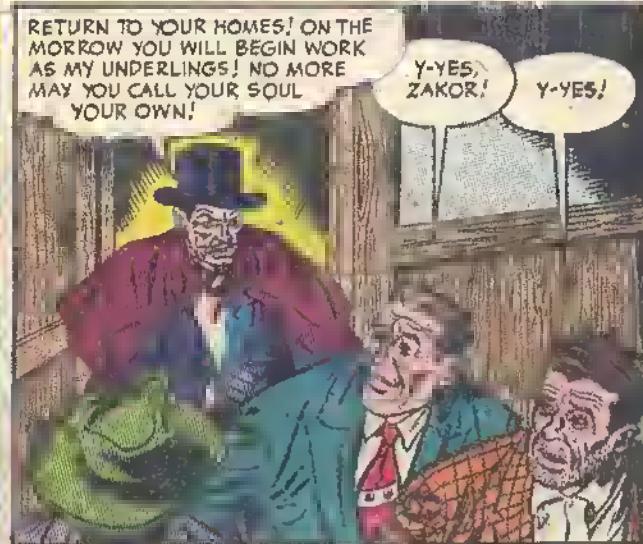
AS I SAID, WITH YOUR ENEMIES DISPOSED OF YOU CAN RULE THE CITY! I SHALL BE YOUR LEADER... FROM HENCEFORTH YOU WILL OBEY MY ORDERS AND BRING ALL STOLEN GOODS TO ME!

WHAT! YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER, ZAKOR! I'M THE BOSS!

WEB OF EVIL



A THOUSAND HORRORS FILL THE ROOM, EACH ONE MORE DREADFUL THAN THE OTHER! FINALLY...



THEN, AFTER THE TREMBLING THUGS HAVE LEFT...

I DID WELL, DID I NOT, OH GREAT, ZAKOR! THE MAGICAL EFFECTS WORKED GOOD!

EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT, MAJA! THE FOOLS ARE COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL! HA! HOW WE POOLED THEM BY YOU COMMITTING THE MURDERS AS YOU INTEND TO BE A GHOST!

YES, ZAKOR...BUT IT WAS YOUR MASTER STROKE OF PREVIOUSLY HYPNOTIZING THAT "LITTLE" LOUIE CHARACTER THAT MADE THEM BELIEVE!

LOUIE'S MIND THAT HE WOULD BE ATTACKED BY A GHOST AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK YOU WORKED WONDERS!

YES, YES! FORTUNATELY HE HAD A BAD HEART! I KNEW HE WOULD DIE OF FRIGHT WHEN HIS

INFLUENCED BY MY POWER, ENVISIONED THE GHOST!

THUSLY, IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW, ZAKOR'S EVIL SCHEME PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS!

THE PROCEEDS FROM THE WEST END BANK ROBBERY, ZAKOR!

A-AND THE JEWELS FROM THE EATON HOTEL ROBBERY!

GOOD! CONTINUE YOUR FINE THEFTS AND WE SHALL HAVE NO TROUBLE!

HIGHER AND HIGHER ZAKOR'S ILL GOTTEN GAINS ARE PILED UP! THEN, THE MEDIUM'S KEEN EYES SENSE TROUBLE...

AH, ZAKOR, WE HAVE A FABULOUS AMOUNT OF WEALTH ALREADY!

YES, MAJA, BUT I HAVE SEEN MURDER IN KELLER'S EYES OF LATE! HE PLANS TO TRICK ME I AM SURE!

TOMORROW NIGHT AT EIGHT YOU WILL DISPOSE OF KELLER! WE WILL FIND ANOTHER LEADER FOR THE GANG! KELLER IS TOO DANGEROUS... HE MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH!

VERY WELL, ZAKOR! I WILL BE IN THE SECRET BACK ROOM AT EIGHT SHARP! DO NOT FEAR!

THE NEXT EVENING, DOOM MOVES IN ON "BIG JIM" KELLER!

HARK WELL, KELLER! MY SPIRITS TELL ME YOU PLAN TO HARM ME! THEY HAVE DECIDED YOU MUST DIE!

WHA...?



HEAR ME, OH SPIRITS! DESCEND UPON THIS MAN WHO WISHES ME HARM! LET THE OTHERS SEE WHAT SHALL BEFALL THEM IF THEY DO NOT OBEY!

F-FINGERS! H-HARRY! HE'S CALLING THE GHOST FOR... ME! HELP ME! DO SOMETHING!

W-WE CAN'T HELP YOU, BOSS!

NO! NO!

THE GHOST OF RIGHT SEEKS YOU OUT, KELLER! HE HAS COME FROM BEYOND TO DESTROY THOSE WITH EVIL IN THEIR HEART! ONLY I CAN BRING HIM FORTH TO SEEK HIS VENGEANCE!



THE GREAT GHOSTLY HANDS CLOSE IN UPON KELLER! PANIC STRICKEN, HIS LEGS TURN TO WATER... HE IS HELPLESS!

YAAAAARGH!

WELL DONE, OH, GHOST OF RIGHT! INDEED YOU DO YOUR JOB OF DESTROYING EVIL WELL! FINGERS, HARRY... LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU! NEVER SEEK TO BETRAY ME OR WE SHALL SEEK YOU OUT ALSO!

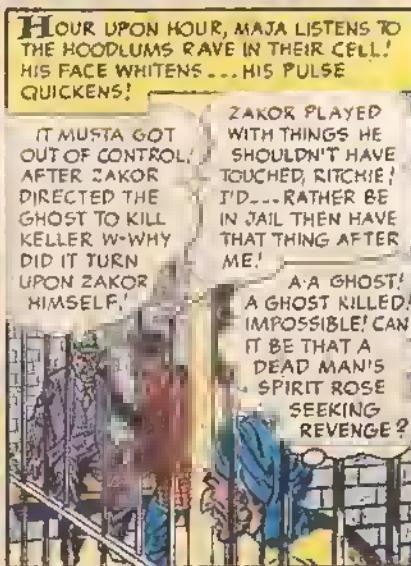
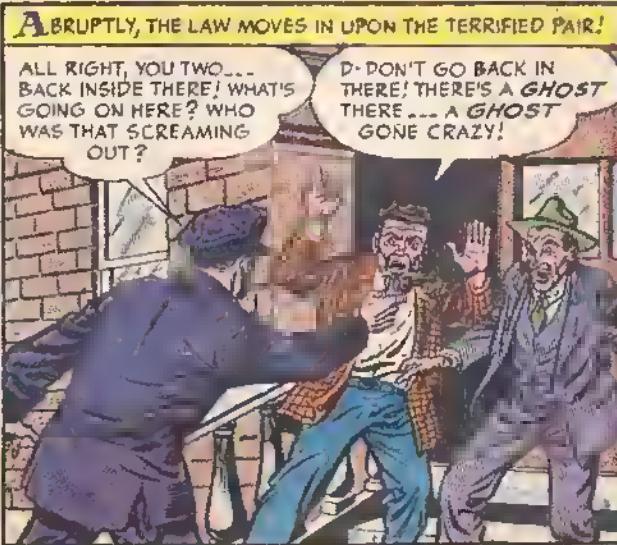
THEN, THE TERRIBLE THING TURNS... ITS GHOSTLY EYES FALL UPON ZAKOR HIMSELF...

BACK... BACK, GHOST OF RIGHT! YOUR JOB IS FINISHED!

NO, ZAKOR... MY JOB... IS NOT DONE YET!



WEB OF EVIL



# The **FIEND** of **TERROR MOUNTAIN**



**T**ERROR RACED THROUGH THE MAN WHO DEALT IN MURDER! NOW THE TABLES WERE TURNED--- NOW, DEATH, GROTESQUE AND IRRESISTIBLE, WAS MOVING IN UPON EMMET LEACHE! AND HE STOOD HELPLESS BEFORE THE CREATURE HE HAD CREATED---

AT TERROR MOUNTAIN INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE A DANGEROUS PATIENT WORKS AT THE WINDOW OF HIS PADDED CELL...

SOON... SOON I WILL BE FREE OF MY CAGE!

SHORTLY, SUDDEN DEATH DESCENDS UPON A PASSING GUARD!

R-ROCO... FREE!  
YAAAARRRGH!

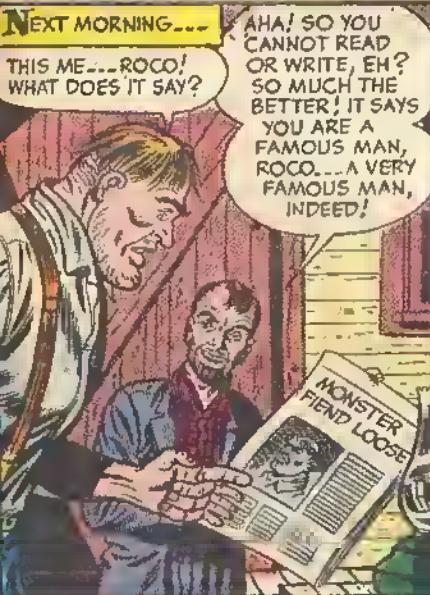


WEB OF EVIL

NONE CAN  
SUBDU  
THE  
CRAZED  
CREATURE...  
FOR  
THE  
STRENGTH  
OF TEN  
MEN  
JUDGE  
THROUGH  
HIS  
MASSIVE  
HULK!



AS THE BRUTE EATS, CUNNING THOUGHTS FILL THE OTHER MAN'S MIND!



THE DOOR OPENS...A WHITE-FACED BUTLER HAS TIME TO UTTER ONE SCREAM, AND---

WHA...? YI!!!!!!

YES, MR.  
LEACHE!

HURRY... HURRY,  
ROCO!



QUICKLY... INSIDE, ROCO! WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO!



THEN, THE DUO OF DEATH COMPLETES ITS MACABRE CRIME, AS---

HA! A KING'S RANSOM IN CASH AND SILVER-WARE, ROCO! I WILL SOON MAKE YOU THE MOST INFAMOUS CRIMINAL IN ALL HISTORY...AND MYSELF THE RICHEST!



TRUE TO HIS WORD, EMMET LEACHE CONDUCTS HIS CAMPAIGN OF TERROR WITH A DEFT HAND IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW!

EXCELLENT, ROCO!  
HA! MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD!

DO NOT...WORRY,  
MR. LEACHE!

EEEEEE

YAAAAA!



AND AS LEACHE GLOATS OVER HIS GROWING WEALTH, THE PAPERS SCREAM OUT THE GRISLY NEWS!

THEN, THE FOLLOWING EVENING AS A LIGHT RAIN COVERS THE COUNTRYSIDE...

WHO...DO WE...  
ROB TONIGHT,  
MR. LEACHE?  
MUST I KILL  
THAT MAN  
INSIDE?

OF COURSE,  
ROCO...HE IS  
THE WEALTHY  
DR. ANGUS! THEY  
SAY HE HAS HIS  
ENTIRE FORTUNE  
HIDDEN IN HIS  
LABORATORY!

SUDDENLY, AS THE POWERFUL ROCO IS ABOUT TO MOVE INTO ACTION!

OF COURSE... DR. ANGUS CAN EXAMINE ME... TELL ME WHAT CAUSES THE PAIN IN MY CHEST?  
ROCO! NEVER MIND... GO HOME! I WILL SEE YOU LATER!



AND SHORTLY, WITHIN DR. ANGUS' HOUSE ---

A FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE AND  
A CARDIAGRAPH SHOULD TELL  
US WHAT'S BEEN CAUSING  
THOSE PAINS IN YOUR CHEST,  
MR. LEACHE! IT WILL TAKE  
ME A DAY OR SO TO  
DIAGNOSE YOUR  
CASE!

FINE!  
I'LL

TELEPHONE YOU FOR  
THE RESULTS DAY  
AFTER TOMORROW!

HA! AND AFTER THAT,  
YOU OLD GOAT, I'LL COME  
BACK TO SEE YOU  
WITH...ROCO!

BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE SMILE LEAVES LEACHE'S FACE  
AS HE SPEAKS WITH DR. ANGUS!

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER  
COMING TO YOUR OFFICE  
TO HEAR YOUR DIAGNOSIS?  
TELL ME NOW---AT ONCE!  
I DEMAND IT!

VERY WELL! I'M ---  
SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS,  
MR. LEACHE...BUT YOU  
HAVE BUT A FEW DAYS OR  
POSSIBLY WEEKS TO LIVE!  
MY EXAMINATION SHOWS  
YOUR HEART IS DAMAGED  
BEYOND REPAIR!

ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH THE MAN WHO DEALS IN  
DEATH....THE BLOOD DRAINS FROM HIS FACE, AS...

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I MAY BE  
ABLE TO EASE THE GREAT PAIN  
YOU WILL SUFFER...THAT IS ALL  
I CAN DO!

P-PAIN...I'M  
GOING TO  
SUFFER...

THEN, WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER RACES THROUGH  
THE KILLER'S BODY...

CHEATED! BETRAYED! SWINDLED!  
MY WEALTH IS USELESS TO ME WHEN  
I'M DEAD!

MR. LEACHE...  
YOU BIG OAF OF A  
CREATURE...WHAT  
COULD YOU DO TO  
HELP A MAN  
DOOMED TO DIE!

HA! DEATH WAS  
THE ONLY  
THING I  
COULD NOT  
OUTWIT!

BUT WAIT...PERHAPS I CAN  
OUTWIT DEATH ALSO! YES...YES,  
ROCO, YOU CAN HELP! YOU  
CAN...KILL ME! OF COURSE!  
ONE DAY, WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK,  
YOU CAN SLAY ME! I SHALL BE  
ANOTHER POOR VICTIM OF YOUR  
GREAT HANDS...AND EVERYONE  
SHALL FEEL SORRY  
FOR ME!

FLAMES OF MADNESS LICK AT THE  
LEACHE'S MIND AS HE UNFOLDS HIS  
PLAN TO OUTWIT DEATH ITSELF!

I MUST NEVER KNOW WHEN IT  
HAPPENS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?  
WITHIN THE WEEK...WHEN I AM  
LEAST SUSPECTING IT YOU WILL  
STRIKE, EH, ROCO! HA! I SHALL DIE  
A RESPECTED  
MAN AND CHEAT  
DEATH OF THE

SHE SEEKS  
TO WILL ME!

I...WILL DO  
ANYTHING...YOU  
WANT ME TO, MR.  
LEACHE! I WILL...  
KILL YOU...LIKE THE  
OTHERS...WHEN YOU  
DO NOT...EXPECT  
IT!

WEB OF EVIL

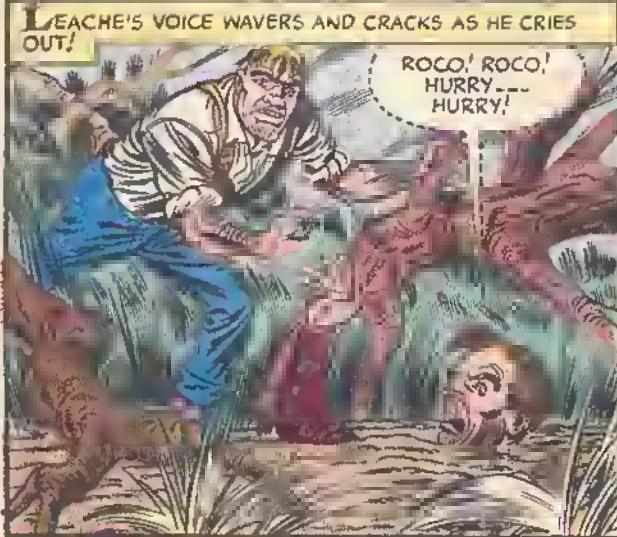
THUS, DOES THE BIZARRE GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH BEGIN! TWO DAYS PASS AND...

THE VILLAGE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR ME... HA! I WILL HAVE A RESPECTED FUNERAL... ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE HORRIBLE FIEND!



LEACHE'S VOICE WAVERS AND CRACKS AS HE CRIES OUT!

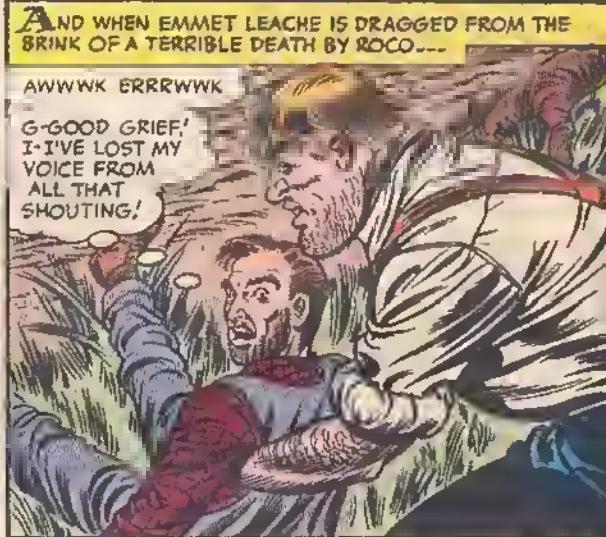
ROCO! ROCO!  
HURRY--  
HURRY!



AND WHEN EMMET LEACHE IS DRAGGED FROM THE BRINK OF A TERRIBLE DEATH BY ROCO...

AWWWK ERRWWK

G-GOOD GRIEF,  
I-IVE LOST MY  
VOICE FROM  
ALL THAT  
SHOUTING!



AS ROCO CARRIES HIS MASTER BACK---

DR. ANGUS! WHAT IN THUNDER DOES HE WANT OF ME?

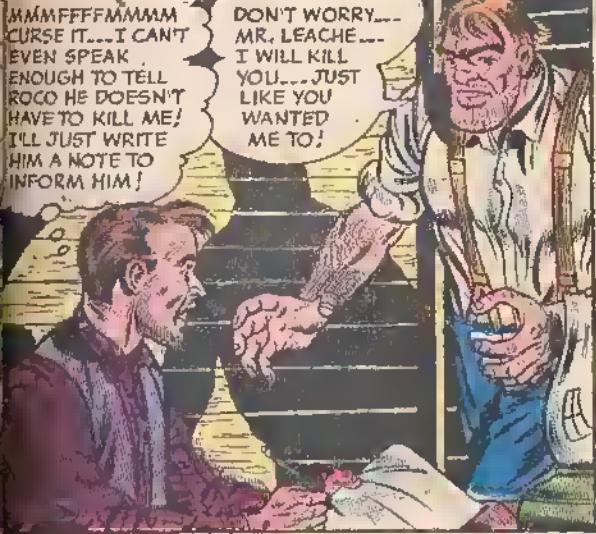
MR. LEACHE.... THANK GOODNESS I FOUND YOU! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! YOU AREN'T GOING TO DIE... MY NURSE MISTAKENLY HANDED ME THE WRONG FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE! YOU'VE GOT A HEALTHY HEART!



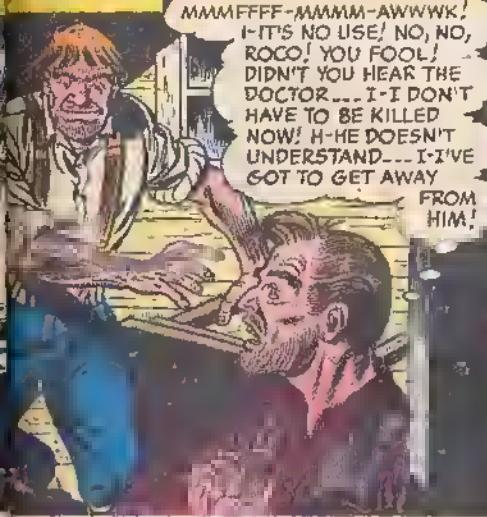
MMFFFFFAMM  
BAH! I CAN'T GET  
MY VOICE BACK...  
BUT WHO CARES?  
HA! I'VE REALLY  
OUTWITTED DEATH  
NOW! I'M GOING  
TO LIVE!

IT WAS A GHASTLY  
ERROR... NO WONDER  
YOU'RE SPEECHLESS  
WITH SHOCK, MR.  
LEACHE! WELL, I'LL  
RUN ALONG AND  
LET YOU COMPOSE  
YOURSELF.





DESERETELY, FRANTICALLY LEACHE STRIVES TO UTTER THE PRECIOUS WORDS THAT CAN SAVE HIS LIFE!



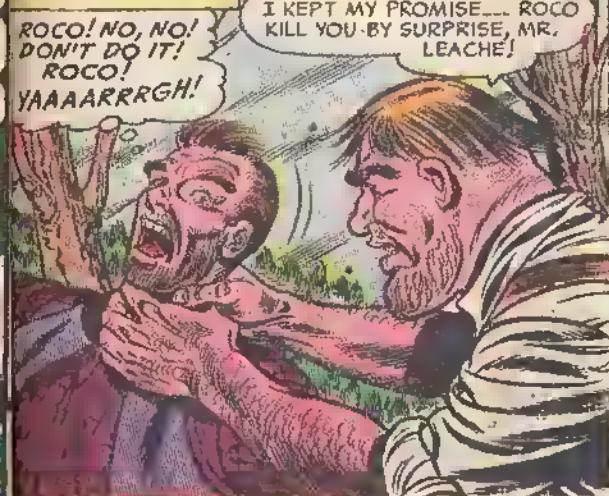
P-PERHAPS HE HASN'T PICKED THE TIME YET!  
YES... THAT'S IT... I'LL RUN TO THE VILLAGE!  
I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE A NOTE AND EXPLAIN MY PROBLEM TO THE TOWNSFOLK!



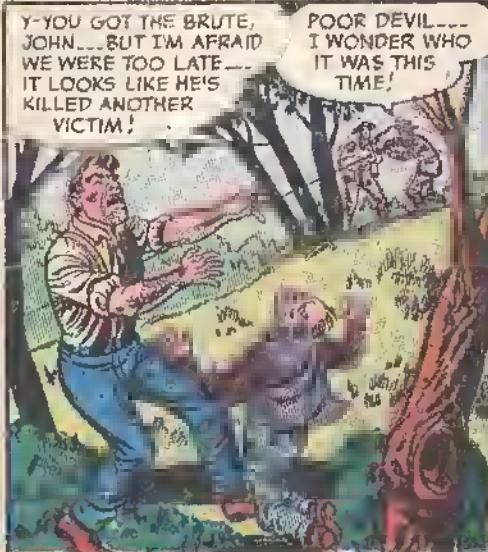
FOR AN HOUR THE FRENZIED MAN RUNS TOWARD TOWN... AND BEHIND HIM, UNSEEN, STALKS HIS ASSASSIN...



THEN, A MOMENT LATER, AS EMMET LEACHE PASSES THE CLUMP OF TREES...



AND AS EMMET LEACHE'S BODY SLIPS TO THE GROUND, A BULLET FROM ABOVE PUTS AN END TO THE CAREER OF THE DUO OF DEATH!



# THE HAMLET OF HORROR

LOOK! LUNA HAS SEIZED TWO MORE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS! I CAN'T LOOK AT THEM!

STEP ASIDE! DR. BONO MAY SAVE THEM IF HE OPERATES IMMEDIATELY!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! A VILLAGE OF CREATURES WHERE WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE LOOKED UPON...AS FREAKS!

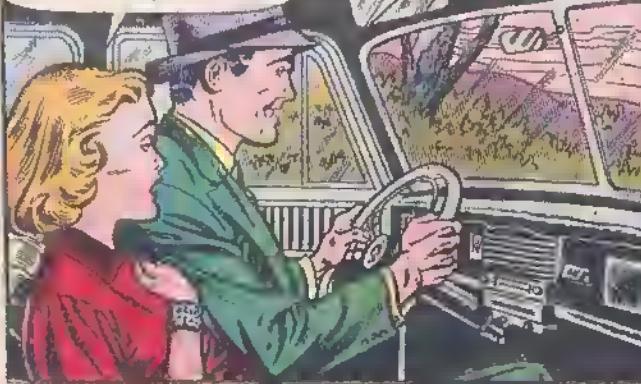


THE HIDEOUS CREATURES LIVED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN... A CIVILIZATION COMPLETELY OPPOSITE TO OURS! ONE IN WHICH UGLINESS WAS BEAUTY AND BEAUTY WAS UGLINESS! CAN YOU POSSIBLY IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO MEMBERS FROM OUR OWN SOCIETY FALL VICTIM TO THESE MONSTERS... AND WHAT THEIR EVENTUAL FATE WILL BE!

IN THE DEEP SOUTH DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE DRIVE ALONG A STRANGE, LONELY BACK ROAD!

JOHN, YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ALONG THIS BACK ROAD FOR HOURS! PLEASE... LET'S RETURN TO THE HIGHWAY... I FEEL NERVOUS HERE!

NONSENSE, DARLING! THIS IS THE REAL THRILL OF TOURING... SEEING THE BACK COUNTRY!



SUDDENLY... I KNOW, BUT IT'S SO EERIE HERE AND... JOHN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

T-THE BRAKES! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAR!



WEB OF EVIL

DOWN...DOWN TOWARD THE OMINOUS RIVER AHEAD SPEEDS THE CAR! FINALLY...

GOOD GRIEF! JUMP DORIS! JUMP CLEAR!



THE TWO TOURISTS FLOUNDER IN THE WATER...FRANTICALLY FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

I-I CAN'T MAKE IT...

KEEP FIGHTING-- DON'T GIVE UP, DORIS!



THEN, AS THE GASPING WOMAN IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER TO THE CURRENT...

?GASPE  
?GASPE  
OH-H...



STARK HORROR SUDDENLY FILLS DORIS AMES' FACE AS...

EEEEEEK! LET ME GO!  
JOHN! JOHN!



THE WATER CLOSES IN UPON THE WOMAN WHO PREFERS DEATH TO THE TERROR BEFORE HER! ABRUPTLY HANDS... CLUTCH AT HER HAIR AND...

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS!

NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SAVE THEM!

G-GREAT HANNAN!  
W-WHAT MONSTERS WHO CAN THEY BE?  
WHAT CAN THEY BE?



PUT HER DOWN, YOU FIEND!  
DON'T TOUCH HER...  
Y-YOU'RE FOUL!

QUIET THE EXCITED ONE! WE MUST HELP THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!



Y-YOU ANIMALS... OH-H!

GOOD! WE WILL BRING THEM BACK WITH US TO THE HAMLET!

YES, LUNA...UGH!  
WHAT SORRY SIGHTS TO behold!



THE WEIRD, CONTORTED CREATURES MOVE OFF WITH JOHN AND DORIS! FINALLY, HOURS LATER, THEY REACH THEIR EERIE DESTINATION!

'LUNA! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE... MORE OF THE UGLY ONES FROM OUTSIDE?

YES! THESE TWO ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE WE HAVE YET BROUGHT BACK! STEP ASIDE... DR. BONO MUST SEE THEM AT ONCE!

SHORTLY, IN THE COMMUNITY DOCTOR'S LABORATORY...

DR. BONO! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TWO MORE PATIENTS... BUT I FEAR THESE ARE BEYOND EVEN YOUR HELP!

AH, LUNA... YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP SO QUICKLY! I WILL EXAMINE THEM IN A MOMENT!

NOW WHERE ARE THEY... O-OH! YOU DID NOT EXAGGERATE! THEY ARE INDEED Hideous, Luna!

NO! NO! I-I CAN'T LOOK!

YES, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY UGLY! HOW COULD SUCH THINGS EXIST? LUNA! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO SAVE THEM!

YES, DOCTOR!

TOMORROW I WILL OPERATE ON THE... GIRL! NOW TAKE THEM TO THE CONFINEMENT BUILDING! I-I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THEM ANY LONGER!

O-OPERA! JOHN... AM I GOING MAD?

STEADY, DORIS...

IN THE DAMP STILLNESS OF THEIR CELL DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE THEIR FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!

IT MUST BE A DREAM! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO US, JOHN! PLEASE! PLEASE TELL ME IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, DORIS! WE'VE STUMBED UPON A CIVILIZATION... IN REVERSE! THESE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES CONSIDER PHYSICAL BEAUTY UGLY!

I-I SEE! THEN IN THEIR EYES WE ARE THE CREATURES, THE FREAKS!

EXACTLY! AND JUST AS OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS FIX DISTORTED FEATURES THESE CREATURES INTEND TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THEM!

WER OF EVIL

JOHN! YOU DON'T  
MEAN THEY'RE  
GOING TO OPERATE  
ON US AND---OH,  
NO!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT  
AND SEE, DORIS! WE'RE AT  
THEIR MERCY!

TERROR STRICKEN, THE HELPLESS PAIR WAIT THROUGH THE  
LONG, DARK NIGHT! THEN, THE FOLLOWING MORNING---

HURRY, JAILER! DR. BONO  
IS AWAITING THE FEMALE  
IN THE OPERATING ROOM!

HEHEHEHE...  
indeed!

J-JOHN! DON'T LET  
THEM TAKE ME!

LEAVE HER  
ALONE!  
YOU CAN'T  
DO THIS  
TERRIBLE  
THING...  
UGH!!

SILENCE, FOOL! WE  
ONLY SEEK TO HELP YOU  
BOTH! YOU WILL THANK  
US WHEN  
IT IS  
OVER!

NO!  
NO!

PLEASE DON'T DO  
THIS THING! GIVE  
YOURSELVES UP  
TO THE OUTSIDE  
WORLD! THEY  
WILL HELP  
YOU!

SURRENDER TO  
A CIVILIZATION  
OF FREAKS!  
NONSENSE!  
WE KNOW WHAT  
THEY DO TO  
NORMAL  
ONES SUCH  
AS WE ARE!

...YOU CAGE US  
LIKE ANIMALS  
IN YOUR  
ASYLUMS! THE  
LESS FORTUNATE  
OF US ARE  
DISPLAYED FOR  
YOUR FELLOW  
CREATURES TO  
MARVEL AT!

T-THESE IS  
FANTASTIC!  
DORIS IS  
RIGHT! THIS  
MUST BE A  
DREAM....A  
NIGHTMARE.  
SUCH  
HORROR  
COULD NEVER  
HAPPEN!

AS THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS JOHN AMES' LIFE BECOMES  
A LIVING HELL!

WHAT HAVE THEY  
DONE TO HER?

POOR DORIS...  
SOBE...WHY  
DID THIS HAVE  
TO HAPPEN?

I'LL...NEVER SEE  
HER AGAIN! THEY'VE  
KILLED HER!

VISIONS OF HIS WIFE'S BEAUTY FILL JOHN'S  
THOUGHTS THROUGH THE LONG HOURS OF THE  
NIGHTS AND DAYS!

OH, DORIS...  
DORIS! WHAT  
WILL I EVER DO  
WITHOUT YOU!  
THOSE FIENDS...  
I'LL MAKE THEM  
PAY FOR THIS!



FINALLY, ON THE FIFTH WEEK THE CREAK OF A DOOR  
BRINGS AMES TO HIS FEET!

HEE, HEE, UGLY ONE... THE  
OPERATION IS OVER! BONO  
HAS SAVED YOUR MATE FROM  
THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER!

D-DORIS! C-CAN THAT  
BE DORIS UNDER  
THE HOOD?

SLOWLY, THE HOOD IS RAISED AND A CRY OF HORROR  
BREAKS FROM JOHN AMES' LIPS!

G-GREAT MERCY...  
THAT BRACELET...  
IT IS DORIS!

YES, JOHN!  
IT IS YOUR  
WIFE! I AM  
VERY HAPPY  
NOW!

HEE, HEE! AND  
SOON YOU TOO  
SHALL HAVE A  
BRAND NEW,  
BEAUTIFUL FACE,  
UGLY ONE!

T-THE FIENDS...  
THEY'VE STOLEN  
HER MIND AS  
WELL AS HER FACE!  
W-WHAT CAN I DO?  
WHAT CAN I DO?

DO NOT  
GRIEVE,  
HOMELY  
ONE...  
SOON  
YOU WILL  
JOIN HER  
AGAIN!

YES,  
DARLING...  
I SHALL BE  
CLOSE BY  
YOUR CELL  
WAITING  
FOR YOU!  
TOMORROW  
BONO SHALL  
OPERATE ON  
YOU ALSO!

THAT NIGHT, A HEAVY RAIN  
FALLS INTO AMES' CELL... THE  
DOCTOR'S MIND REELS UNDER  
THE IMPACT OF THE HORROR  
HE HAS SEEN!

IT'S MADNESS  
... MADNESS! SOMEHOW,  
SOME WAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING;  
I MUST ESCAPE...  
GET DORIS TO A DOCTOR!  
HMM, I WONDER...

DOCTOR AMES' STOOPS TO HIS  
KNEES... HIS HANDS DIG DEEP INTO  
THE SOFT CLAY THE RAIN HAS MADE!

YES, YES... WITH THIS CLAY AND  
THE STRAW THATCHWORK FROM  
THE ROOF I MAY BE ABLE TO DO  
IT! I-I  
MUST!



AN HOUR LATER, THE GROTESQUE JAILER IS STUNNED  
AS...

WHAT ARE YOU  
SHOUTING FOR, UGLY ONE...  
YI!!! YOU ARE NO LONGER  
UGLY! YOU ARE--  
HANDSOME!

YES, YES, YOU FOOL! A  
MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED!  
NOW I'M ONE OF YOU--  
LET ME OUT! LET ME BE  
WITH MY WIFE AS YOU  
PROMISED!

THEN, AS THE STARTLED JAILER OPENS THE CELL DOOR...

THERE, YOU DOG! I'M FREE OF YOUR  
ACCURSED CELL!



JOHN... YOUR FACE! HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE NORMAL NOW WITHOUT THE OPERATION... B-BUT WHY DID YOU HIT THE JAILER? HE'S OUR FRIEND!

DORIS, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND... THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR BRAIN! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

INTO THE POURING RAIN JOHN AMES CARRIES HIS STRUGGLING WIFE! FEAR GIVES STRENGTH TO HIS LIMBS AS HE RUNS FROM THE TERRIBLE HAMLET!

EEEEEK! YOU TRICKED ME! YOU'RE STILL UGLY! IT WAS ALL A DISGUISE!

YES, DARLING... OF CLAY AND STRAW! PLEASE... PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU... TRYING TO SAVE US BOTH! W-WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO... TO CIVILIZATION!

MILE AFTER MILE DOCTOR AMES WANDERS THROUGH THE GRIM COUNTRY-SIDE; FINALLY, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HE LOSES HIS FOOTING AND...

DORIS! DORIS! COME BACK... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY OUT... PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK!

THE HOURS PASS... THE RAIN CEASES! THEN, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A VILLAGE...

WE FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND ON THE HIGHWAY! SOMETHING'S WRONG, SERGEANT... HE'S RAVING ABOUT BEING MONSTERS!

I-IT'S THE TRUTH! THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE... YOU MUST HELP ME!

JUST TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! WE'LL HELP YOU. NOW, TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

WHEN JOHN AMES HAS LED THE POLICE TO THE SCENE OF HIS ACCIDENT...

HMM! NO WONDER THE POOR FELLOW'S GONE MAD! EVIDENTLY HIS WIFE WAS WASHED DOWN STREAM AFTER THE CRAZIEST AWAY!

NO! NO! MONSTERS GRABBED US BOTH! YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FOOT-PRINTS... THERE... BUT THE RAIN

POOR DEVIL THE TRAGEDY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD AS A HATTER!

SO IT IS, THAT THE DOORS OF THE MADHOUSE OPEN UP TO DOCTOR JOHN AMES!

T-THEY CALL ME MAD... PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT! SUCH TERRIBLE VISIONS SEEM FANTASTIC! I-I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT ALL! YES... POOR, DEAR DORIS WAS DROWNED... JUST LIKE THEY SAID!

AMES SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING! HE'S A FINE GENTLEMAN... I CERTAINLY HOPE HE PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER!

AND IN THE MONTHS TO FOLLOW JOHN AMES DOES PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER! SOON THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE HE CAN BE RELEASED!

WE FEEL YOU'VE WON THE SATTLE, DR. AMES! TRY TO KEEP DARK THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND AND TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME! GOODBYE!

KIN STA HOS

## WER OF EVIL

BUT AS THE DAYS PASS, DOCTOR AMES  
CANNOT KEEP THE VISION OF HIS  
LOVELY WIFE FROM HIS MIND!

NO, NO! MAD THEY MIGHT CALL ME  
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A  
NIGHTMARE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP  
SEARCHING FOR DORIS! SOMEWHERE  
OUT IN THAT DREADED COUNTRY-  
SIDE SHE MAY BE WAITING!



I-IT WAS A MIRACLE I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WHEN THEY  
OPENED MY CELL DOOR TO FEED ME!  
I PLACED A LOCK OF MY HAIR IN THE  
CATCH...OH, JOHN, TAKE ME  
AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE  
PLACE!



NOW, DOCTOR, YOU KNOW IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR  
WIFE YOU DEFINITELY TOLD US  
SHE ALWAYS WORE A VALUABLE  
SILVER BRACELET! THIS  
WOMAN HAS NONE!



NIGHT AND DAY, THE HALF CRAZED  
DOCTOR ROAMS THE WOODS! THEN...

D-DORIS! DORIS! I'VE FOUND  
HER! S-SHE'S NORMAL...SHE'S...  
HERSELF!

J-JOHN...



OH, DARLING...IT  
WAS TERRIBLE! THEY  
TRICKED YOU! ONE  
OF THOSE TERRIBLE  
CREATURES PRE-  
TENDED TO BE ME!  
THEY...STOLE MY  
BRACELET SO YOU'D  
BELIEVE IT!



THE FIENDS! THEIR  
TWISTED BRAINS  
WANTED VENGE-  
ANCE AGAINST  
US BECAUSE OF  
OUR NORMAL  
GOOD LOOKS!  
THEY SOUGHT TO  
DRIVE US MAD  
WITH THAT TRICK!

YES, DARLING!  
THERE'S NO  
NEED FOR  
FURTHER  
FEAR...THE  
POLICE WILL  
TAKE CARE OF  
THEM ALL!

SHORTLY, AS AMES AND HIS WIFE PLEAD WITH THE POLICE...

NOW, DOCTOR AMES,  
YOU'VE BEEN A SICK  
MAN! I DON'T KNOW  
WHO THIS WOMAN IS  
BUT YOU KNOW YOUR  
WIFE DROWNED IN AN  
AUTO ACCIDENT!

JUST  
FORGET  
ALL ABOUT  
THESE  
VISIONS  
YOU'VE  
HAD!

GOOD GRIEF! I  
TELL YOU THIS IS  
MY WIFE AND THERE  
ARE MONSTRous  
DEVILS OUT THERE IN  
THE WOODS! YOU  
MUST BELIEVE US!



WAIT, DEAR...IF WE  
PERSIST THEY MAY  
PUT ME BACK IN THE  
MENTAL INSTITUTION!  
WE'D...BETTER GO!



WE'LL JUST FORGET  
IT EVER HAPPENED,  
DARLING! AND WE'LL  
DRIVE BACK HOME!

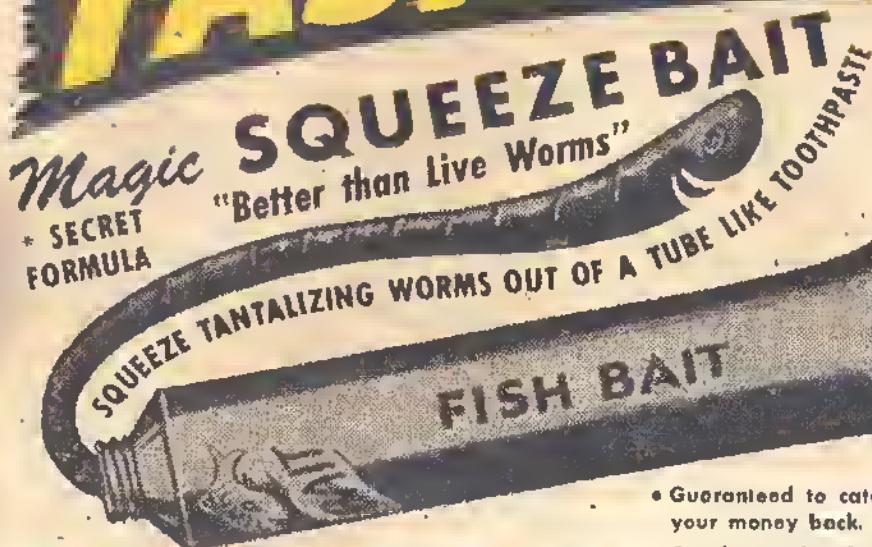
YES, JOHN...AND  
THIS TIME WE  
WON'T TAKE ANY  
BACK ROADS,  
WILL WE?

MAD AS  
MARCH HARES...  
BOTH OF  
THEM!



# FAST-BITE

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# MURDER TRAP

**T**HIS thought of murder became cold decision in Paul Dexter's mind the afternoon they found the treasure chest. He stood back, cold and calculating, while his two partners, Jameson and Rhodes, bent excitedly over the spot their probe rod had indicated. Again and again Rhodes jammed the long steel rod into the soft earth of the swamp island until it thudded dully off the hard object deep underneath.

"That's it," he shouted wildly at last. "It's rectangular, two feet wide by three feet long—the exact size of the pirate chest as recorded on the map. And it's only three feet down. By tomorrow night we'll have it out and a million dollars in pirate loot will be ours."

Standing back, Paul Dexter raised his eyes to the sinister green wall of the great swamp, pressing like an ever-present threat against the tiny island of solid earth. They had come there a week before, posing as scientists studying swamp life. They had built the small but sturdy shack and begun the foot-by-foot search of the island with the probe rod. And today their efforts had been rewarded.

He looked with new calculation at these two men whom Fate had joined with him. Tom Rhodes had owned the ancient map showing where a pirate had buried a million dollars in loot on the island in the great swamp. Jameson had supplied the money for the search.

Dexter had been given a partnership because his degree in science gave them an excuse to live in the swamp without betraying their real purpose to the swamp dwellers. And now it came to him with a new sharpness that, with these other two dead, the treasure would be all his.

He looked up at the shadows of night, already long across the dismal wilderness. Here a cotton-mouth arrowed across the sluggish water that surrounded them. Somewhere close by an alligator bellowed. Night was closing in and with it would come *The Sobbing Thing*!

They had heard whispers of it and, that first night, they had seen it. Now Paul tried to guess what it was. They had seen it, true, but only as a shape of fearful immensity, moving with a kind

of oozing crawl, slipping around and around the island as it gave forth the anguished sobbing sound that had caused its name. What was it? Some prehistoric monster, surviving in the eternal land of quivering earth? Some horror from another dimension, another world? Whatever it was, it had kept them awake night after night as it circled their tiny island, but never once had it set foot on the solid ground itself. They had built their cabin solid and fashioned heavy bars for doors and windows, so they felt safe.

Now suddenly aware that the dreaded night was falling, Paul Dexter got his idea. The others were intent on the treasure. Paul whirled, ran to the shack and slammed the door. From inside he barred it and barred the windows. Then, lighting his pipe with trembling hands, he waited.

It was half an hour before Rhodes discovered the deepening shadows. Paul heard him say, "We'd better get inside, Tom, before the *Sobbing Thing* comes." And then his wild, frightened yell of discovery. "The door and windows are barred. Paul, for the love of mercy, let us in."

Dexter sat quietly, not answering. He heard them hammer on door and windows. Heard them plead and curse him as the darkness fell. And then he heard the soft, rising sound of sobbing that marked the advent of *The Sobbing Thing*. He heard their prayers and curses change to shrieks of awful horror. Manning's yell rose and broke suddenly, and then Rhodes screamed, "Paul! For heaven's sake, if you must kill me, shoot me. Don't let that . . ." And then the silence. The awful, trembling, sobbing silence. And then a faint, shuffling noise. A stench of ancient ooze, a creaking as something pressed against the door.

Then Paul Dexter knew what he had done. He had doomed his two partners to death—but in so doing, he had doomed himself. The *Sobbing Thing* had at last tasted human flesh and it was no longer content to stay in the swamp. Now it was hungry, pressing at the door. He had fed it, had fanned its horrid appetite. With bulging eyes and lips too frozen to utter the scream locked in his throat, he saw the door began to bend and then to break . . .

# DEATH'S VENGEANCE



ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED... FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! YES, ONLY A MAD MAN WOULD BELIEVE HIS STORY... AND DUNSTER WAS DOOMED!

IN A SMALL ROOM IN A WING OF THE CITY MUSEUM CURATOR, ARTHUR DUNSTER, FROWNS AT THOSE WHO SCOFF AT HIS RELICS!

HA, HA! HOW ABSURD! IMAGINE THE MUSEUM EXPECTING FOLKS TO BELIEVE THESE RELICS ACTUALLY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF EVIL!

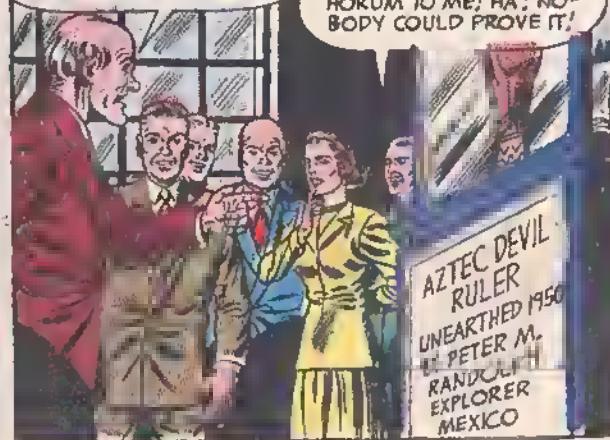
CERTAINLY! IT'S A CHEAP WAY TO GET PUBLICITY!

FOOLS!



YOU ARE WRONG! EACH ITEM IN THIS COLLECTION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAUSING TERROR AND HORROR RARELY KNOWN IN THE WORLD TODAY! THE AZTEC DEVIL HERE SLEW THOUSANDS BEFORE HE HIMSELF WAS SLAIN AND PUT INTO THIS MUMIFIED STATE!

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF HOKUM TO ME! HA! NOBODY COULD PROVE IT!



## WEB OF EVIL

**AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...**

WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE UP YOUR RELIC ROOM! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL AND THE MUSEUM NEEDS THE SPACE!

YES, MR. DANE! THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH! THEY... DO NOT KNOW OF THE EVIL THAT ACTUALLY LURKS HERE!

I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT, DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM AND TAKE YOUR OLD JOB BACK IN THE MAIN ROOM!

YES...YES, MR. DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!

**SHORTLY, AS THE DEJECTED LITTLE CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!**

WHAT A PITY... BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES... AND NOW NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED! YOU... SHALL BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE DARK RECESSSES OF THE MUSEUM BASEMENT HERE!

DEATH MASK  
AMAZON RIVER  
KENNETH CRANDELL  
EXPLORER, 1921

MURDER MACE  
INSTRUMENT USED TO EXECUTE FIVE THOUSAND WARRIOR - 1505 - ENGLAND JOHN H. READE

**SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH...**

DO...NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE...OURS! SOON...THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!

WHA...?

**A**RITUPLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF HORROR UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE! THE CURATOR STAGGERS, STUMBLING BACKWARD AS STARK TERROR CLUTCHES HIM!

THOSE WHO BROUGHT US FORTH... SHALL BE... THE PROOF OF OUR EVIL!

WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR SACRED RESTING PLACES TO FACE SCORN! WE SHALL STRIKE BACK!

**THEN...**

**DO NOT FEAR US...**

YOU... ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!

T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!

G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?

W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!

NO, NO, MR. DANE! I'VE... JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A HEADACHE! I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT! I'LL... GO HOME AND REST!

STORAGE ROOM

WEB OF EVIL

POOR DUNSTER... HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! I'M AFRAID FOR HIS HEALTH. THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO THE RELICS WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!

YES, DUNSTER'S HEALTH HAS NEVER BEEN TOO GOOD! PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!



MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!

BETTER GET TO BED EARLY... GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!



AH, BUT IT IS CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE! NOW, I HAVE COME BACK TO JOIN YOU!

B-BUT YOU'RE AT THE MUSEUM! W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A... A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK... MOVE?



THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER TO CRANDELL! SUDDENLY...

IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!



THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!

HEE, HEE! SOON VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS, ARTHUR DUNSTER! HO, HO! THE WORLD WILL SEE OUR ANCIENT EVIL FIRST HAND!

NO! NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!



SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM...

HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?

YI!!!! THE MASK-- THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!



THEN, THE NECK THONGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR AND...

GASP! GASP! NO, NO... CAN'T BREATHE... CHOKING... CHOKING...



WEB OF EVIL

AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE AS CRANDELL'S BODY IS DISCOVERED!

I...I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDELL JUST LIKE THAT!

YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?

I...I CAN'T SAY!



THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!

HMM... THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING, SEEING AS HOW HE FOUND IT!



BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH IS NOT AN ACCIDENT!

YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I'M HELPLESS TO STOP YOU... FOR NONE WOULD BELIEVE ME!



AND YOU... YOU MURDERER... YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR. DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! THEY WANT TO SEE THE THING THAT KILLED KENNETH CRANDELL! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!



LATER...

YES, SIR!

THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A GOOD HOME! I WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!



LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLPH AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!



HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE... BUT ISN'T IT A BIT LATE TO BE MEETING HERE AT THE CLUB?

MY NOTE! BUT, JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!

SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE...

SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!

G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

A-AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!



WEB OF EVIL

IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM...

"IMPOSSIBLE! T-THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!"

"INDEED I HAVE! AND NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!"

MY EVIL HAS BEEN SCORNED BY THOSE WHO CAME TO LAUGH UPON MY MUMMIFIED BODY! DIE, DEFILERS...DIE!

THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE FAIR. THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND...

NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!

YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!

MERCY... MERCY! G-GO BACK TO YOUR DUSTY TOMB... I'LL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN, DEVIL RULER!

BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER NOR IN THE MACE THAT HAS DEALT A THOUSAND DEATH BLOWS BEFORE!

AND THUS... VENGEANCE!

YAAARRGHH!

THEN, THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER! WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!

IT... IS DONE... NO MORE SHALL THEY SCOFF... AT OUR POWERS!

AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE... THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES WE FOUND IN THEIR POCKETS?

I-I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER! I-IT'S FANTASTIC!

WEB OF EVIL

SUDDENLY...

MR. DANE... I'VE JUST READ THE NEWS-PAPER! I... CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!

GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!



NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THAT'S WHY I KEPT MY FEARFUL SECRET UNTIL NOW! THE RELICS... THEY PLOTTED THESE MURDERS TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!

NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READE AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER! YOU KILLED THOSE MEN TO PROVE YOUR RELICS WERE POSSESSED OF EVIL!



YOU'RE ILL... PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!

M-MY MIND... YES, THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS... THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER! T-THOSE FEARFUL HEADACHES, AND NIGHTMARES... IT WAS THEM POSSESSING MY SOUL!



WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...

I'LL KILL THEM... I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!

STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!

GREAT CATS! HE'S GONE BESERK!



THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...



AND A MOMENT LATER...

T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!

UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE.



AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE HAVE SEARCHED THE ROOM...

YEAH, THIS IS HOW HE DID IT, ALL RIGHT! USED THIS DISGUISE TO MAKE UP AS THAT HIDEOUS AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

AND THAT MEANS HE STRAPPED THE DEATH MASK ON THE FIRST VICTIM ALSO! HE WAS HIS OWN EVIL!

YES, BUT IT'S STRANGE HE SHOULD MISTAKENLY STUMBLE INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE IRON MAIDEN TORTURE INSTRUMENT! PERHAPS... THE EVIL HE IS ACTUALLY DID EXIST!



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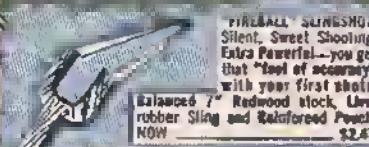
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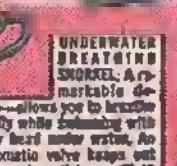
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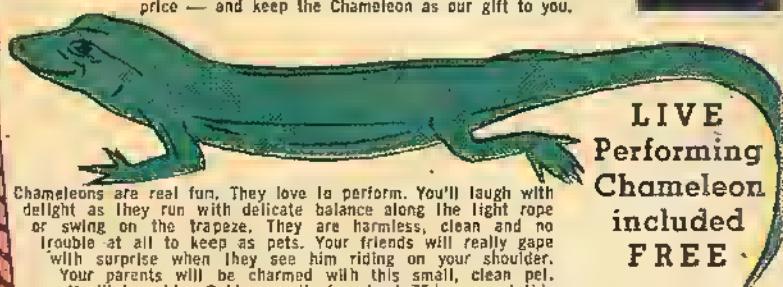
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